(b) if so, the progress made in the matter so far; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) The Ministry of Home Affairs through the Directorate of Coordination, Police Wireless is in the process of implementing a Satellite based telecommunication network, POLNET, which will, *inter alia,* connect the National capital with the capitals of the State/Union, Territories. The contract for the project has been awarded to M/S Bharat Electronics Limited on turnkey basis. As per the terms of the contract, the installation and commissioning of the project is to be completed by December, 2004.

Coastal police force in Kerala

1084. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to assist the State Governments to set up a coastal police force;

(b) whether any proposal have been received from the Government of Kerala requesting financial assistance for the formation of coastal police force in the State;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in the matter; and

(d) whether Government propose to accord sanction and to extend the financial assistance for setting up of coastal police force in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.